

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 23, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 4, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 15, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 924

Introduced by Senator Perata

(Principal coauthors: Senators Migden and Romero)

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Leno)

**(Coauthors: Senators Corbett, Kuehl, Oropeza, Ridley-Thomas,
Scott, Steinberg, and Wiggins)**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Dymally and Eng Brownley,
DeSaulnier, Dymally, Eng, Hancock, Karnette, Levine, Nunez, and
Saldana)*

February 23, 2007

An act relating to Iraq, and calling an election, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 924, as amended, Perata. Iraq war: advisory election.

(1) This bill would require ~~the Secretary of State to call an election,~~ *notwithstanding specified provisions of law, that an election be called* for the purpose of placing before the voters of the state an advisory question asking whether the President should end the United States occupation of Iraq, and whether the President and the Congress should provide the necessary diplomatic and nonmilitary assistance to promote peace and stability in Iraq and the Middle East. The bill would require the Secretary of State to communicate the results of this election to the President and to consolidate this election with the statewide presidential

primary election of February 5, 2008. By increasing the duties of local elections officials, the addition of an election to place an advisory question on the ballot would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

(3) This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an act calling for an election.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Whereas, The United States is now into the fifth year of a
4 war in Iraq with no end in sight; and

5 (b) Whereas, On May 1, 2003, President Bush declared the “end
6 of major combat operations” in Iraq, yet tragic military and civilian
7 casualties and injuries in Iraq continue, with the fourth year of this
8 conflict resulting in the greatest number of casualties and injuries;
9 and

10 (c) Whereas, Despite the deaths of ~~nearly 3,500~~ *more than 3,700*
11 American men and women in our Armed Forces, and the injury
12 of more than ~~25,000~~ *27,000* Americans, President George W. Bush
13 has refused to begin a safe and orderly withdrawal of American
14 soldiers from Iraq; and

15 (d) Whereas, Civilian casualties in Iraq have been significant,
16 with more than ~~64,000~~ *70,000* civilian Iraqi men, women, and
17 children killed, and many more wounded or displaced from their
18 homes; and

19 (e) Whereas, Hostilities in Iraq have continued for more than
20 four years, requiring the expenditure of more than
21 \$350,000,000,000, an amount that has forced the federal
22 government to devote fewer resources to properly funding schools,

1 health systems, homeland security, and other vital domestic needs;
2 and

3 (f) Whereas, ~~Three hundred sixty-two~~ *More than 400*
4 Californians have been among the service members killed in the
5 Iraq conflict, more than any other state, and thousands more
6 Californians, including more than 800 members of California's
7 National Guard, remain deployed in Iraq and at grave risk; and

8 (g) Whereas, The widely respected and bipartisan Iraq Study
9 Group recommended that the United States withdraw its Armed
10 Forces from Iraq by early 2008; and

11 (h) Whereas, In spite of a growing consensus among experienced
12 and respected military officials, diplomats, scholars, and the
13 American public that the time has come to begin the safe and
14 orderly withdrawal of United States Armed Forces, the Bush
15 Administration has chosen instead to jeopardize the safety of
16 additional personnel with an ill-conceived "surge", an increase in
17 the number of troops deployed to Iraq; and

18 (i) Whereas, Despite the best efforts and tremendous sacrifices
19 made by service members and their families, the continued
20 presence of United States Armed Forces will not lead to peace and
21 stability in Iraq or the Middle East.

22 (j) Therefore, in support of the men and women serving in the
23 United States Armed Forces in Iraq, this act provides the people
24 of California the opportunity to voice their heart felt concerns and
25 to be heard at the ballot on this critical issue.

26 SEC. 2. (a) ~~The Secretary of State shall call an election~~
27 *Notwithstanding Section 9040 or 12000 of the Elections Code or*
28 *any other provision of law, an election is hereby called* for the
29 purpose of placing before the voters of this state the following
30 advisory question:

31 Shall President George W. Bush, in support of the men and
32 women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, end the
33 United States occupation of Iraq and ~~immediately begin the safe~~
34 *achieve the immediate, complete, safe,* and orderly withdrawal of
35 United States forces; and, further, shall President George W. Bush
36 and the Congress provide the necessary diplomatic and nonmilitary
37 assistance to promote peace and stability in Iraq and the Middle
38 East?

1 (b) Upon certification of the election, the Secretary of State
2 shall communicate to President George W. Bush the results of the
3 election asking the question set forth in subdivision (a).

4 (c) The provisions of the Elections Code that apply to the
5 preparation of ballot measures and ballot materials at a statewide
6 election shall apply to the measure submitted pursuant to this
7 section.

8 (d) Notwithstanding Section 9040 of the Elections Code, the
9 Secretary of State shall consolidate the election provided for in
10 subdivision (a) with the statewide presidential primary election to
11 be held on February 5, 2008.

12 SEC. 3. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
13 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
14 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
15 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
16 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

17 SEC. 4. This act calls an election within the meaning of Article
18 IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.